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## Telephone Line Irradiated Stoessel's Moscow Office

Associated Press

An outside telephone line has carried radiation directly into the office of Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel Jr. at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, a State Department source says.

The radiation conducted along Stoessel's own phone wire was discovered several weeks ago, the source said, during a new round of technical tests to investigate microwaves apparently being beamed at the Moscow embassy by the Soviets.

The new tests, run by CIA electronic specialists, showed radiation levels considerably higher than in earlier tests by the State Department's bureau of security, the source said.

The source said the CIA team also detected radiation being carried into Stoessel's office along wires connected to an overhead light.

SINCE EARLY February, aluminum screening has been installed on the embassy's windows to help block out radiation.

However, even after the screening was installed, the CIA found that Stoessel's outside telephone wire was "bringing the radiation right into his office on that line because of the exposure — the way the line is hooked up," according to the State Department source.

In recent weeks, steps have been taken to try to

minimize radiation from both the telephone line and overhead light wires, the source said.

The reason behind the Soviet microwaves remains unclear. Most speculation has focused upon possible use of the beams to counter U.S. electronic snooping or for other Soviet intelligence purposes.

The CIA is reported to be enlisting a "top-notch expert" on radiation medicine to conduct an on-the-spot examination of possible health effects linked to the microwaves in Moscow.

THE CIA-HIRED specialist will be charged with independently re-running, re-evaluating and supplementing medical checks already performed on embassy employees by State Department physicians.

CIA personnel operate much of the embassy's highly sophisticated communications equipment, housed in upper floors of the 10-story structure.

Those same floors — which also contain the offices for Stoessel and other top U.S. diplomats — have been the main target of the searchlight-like microwave beams.

The State Department source said Stoessel was "beside himself" after being informed of the new radiation tests and expressed his concern in classified cables to Deputy Undersecretary of State Lawrence K. Eagleburger.

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth, asked about the situation, said it was "untrue that Soviet microwave transmissions are considerably higher than in earlier tests."

"Conditions at the embassy are substantially improved," he said. Funseth declined to elaborate despite persistent questioning by newsmen. The spokesman also denied that there has been any separate testing of the radiation problem by the CIA.